

French Market, Tourism Cited

Shaw Lauds Restoration

French Market Project Manager Ray L. Shaw sees the forthcoming \$2.5 million renovation and restoration of the French Market as a symbolic move in the right direction for New Orleans.

Shaw told the Press Club Newsmaker Luncheon that New Orleans has no business aspiring to become a major manufacturing or distribution center such as Atlanta or Dallas, but should try to encourage its two major income sources—the port and tourism.

Tourism, he said currently brings in \$100 million a year. He said the typical tourist spends five days here.

"IF WE CAN encourage that same tourist to stay one more day we will have gained a \$60 million increase in our economy."

He noted that Chamber of Commerce President Eads Pollevent said over the weekend New Orleans should expect more and more of the status quo.

Shaw pointed to the similarity of his own and Pollevent's views.

"Unless we concentrate on developing what we have now we will tend to disperse our efforts."

Shaw said some of the present French Market buildings which were erected in 1912, and restored by the NPA in 1967, will again be restored.

IN ADDITION, he said, two more

buildings will be built, and in one of them will be a new style seafood restaurant.

He said the French Market would be an ideal location for displaying merchandise, superior to merchandise centers in Atlanta, San Francisco and Los Angeles.

In response to a question as to

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whether he intended to spend money he might glean from his suit against District Attorney Jim Garrison, on French Market bonds, Shaw said "I have not thought that far ahead."

He said the matter is still before the courts so he preferred not to discuss the litigation. The Supreme Court of the United States has held that he may sue Garrison in conjunction with alleged malicious prosecution and a \$5 million suit is pending.